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Letter dated 16 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour upon instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to convey herewith the statement of the Government on the aggression launched by the Israeli forces against one of our posts in Lebanese territories on the morning of 16 April 2001 (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if this statement were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mikhail **Wehbe**

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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Statement by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the Israeli attack on a Syrian position in Lebanon (Damascus, 16 April 2001)

At 0020 hours on 16 April 2001 Israeli formations violated Lebanese airspace and bombed one of our positions in Lebanese territory. Our air defences engaged the attacking aircraft and drove them off. A Syrian radar installation was damaged in the bombing, and one of our personnel was killed and four were wounded.

Syria considers this wanton aggression against its forces, as well as the savage and racist crimes being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, to be an expression of the hostile attitude maintained by the Government of Israel under Sharon's leadership. It regards this as a serious escalation that may undermine peace and stability in the region.

Syria regards this aggression as an affront to the will of the Arab nation as conveyed in the Communiqué of the Amman Summit, in which the Arab leaders affirm their full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon and their rejection of Israel's aggression and its threats against the two countries. It holds Israel responsible for this dangerous escalation, and it reserves its right to legitimate self-defence against any aggression.

The Syrian Arab Republic alerts the international community to the gravity of this attack, and it calls upon the United Nations to adopt a firm stance against such dangerous provocations and to take action to end Israel's control of the occupied Arab territories in implementation of the resolutions that embody international legitimacy.